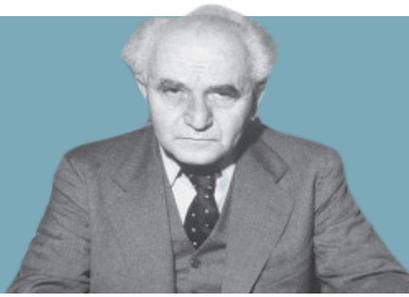


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New Unity Government Pledges to Apply Sovereignty in Judea and Samaria



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Benny Gantz, May 17, 2020. Photo: Amos Ben Gershon/Knesset Spokesperson's Office/Handout via REUTERS.

BY DOV LIPMAN/
JNS.org

After more than 500 days of political instability and three consecutive national elections, Israel's 35th government was officially sworn in.

The installation of a unity government on Sunday concludes months of intense political battles that challenged Israel's

fragile parliamentary system and brings together former political opponents Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the Likud Party, and Benny Gantz, former IDF chief of staff and head of the Blue and White Party.

As part of the coalition agreement, Netanyahu will serve as prime minister for the first 18 months of the government's term, with Gantz serving as vice prime

minister and minister of defense. On Nov. 17, 2021, Gantz is scheduled to become prime minister with Netanyahu serving as vice prime minister.

During the swearing-in ceremony, Netanyahu declared to the Knesset that "the public wants a unity government, and that's what the public will get. We decided to form a unity govern-

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Israeli Experts: Right Time to Reopen Economy, Still Possible Second Outbreak

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

As Israel continues to gradually restart its economy following a steep drop in coronavirus infections, two experts say that, while reopening is prudent, a second outbreak is still possible.

Prof. Zion Hagay — chairman of the Israel Medical Association — told Israeli news site N12, "The exit strategy was definitely done at the right time, and perhaps could



People visit a beach along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, in Tel Aviv, Israel, May 17, 2020. Photo: Reuters / Amir Cohen.

have come a little sooner."

Nonetheless, he said, "I'm afraid that all the proper steps are not being taken."

Hagay pointed in particular to what he said was poor government communication and a corresponding lack of public confidence in information about COVID-19.

"The virus is still alive and well, and we don't know when the next wave will be, but expect that there will be one," he noted.

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A Professor's Anti-Israel Fantasy

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ShabbatCalendar

Parshat BAMIDBAR פרשת במדבר Times for New York City, Friday Candle Lighting
Shabbat Begins: 7:55pm | Shabbat Ends: 9:02pm



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Opinion.

The Unlearned 'Nakba' Lesson About Compromise



JONATHAN S. TOBIN
JNS.org

Palestinian Arabs continue to learn the wrong history lesson. On May 15, as they do every year, they relive the sorrow of 1948, when they remind themselves of all the terrible things that happened to them as a result of the creation of modern-day Israel. Their narrative of a martyred people who were driven from their homes and made stateless victims is more than a political statement; it's a faith that is integral to their identity. The yearly vow to "return" to all that they lost 72 years ago — to reverse the verdict of history — is so deeply embedded in their consciousness that it has made it impossible for any of their leaders to even consider formally giving it up.

This is an old story that has been retold so many times that even many of those who sympathize with the Palestinian cause have grown bored with it. Indeed, although talk of the *nakba* — the "disaster" or "catastrophe" of 1948 — is still enough to fire up radical foes of the Jewish state in the West, much of the Arab world has changed the channel and is more interested in cooperation with Israel than in relitigating the events of the war in which it won its independence.

But it is of particular importance in 2020 because with the debate about Israel

extending its law to some settlements in the West Bank, the Palestinians are once repeating the mistakes that led to the *nakba* in the first place.

To point this out is generally considered insensitive. The suffering of the Palestinians — the one refugee population out of the hundreds of millions who were rendered homeless throughout the world since 1945 that has refused to be resettled — has always been the most powerful weapon in their possession. As such, they have nurtured their status as perpetual victims and jealously guarded it the way others defend their faith, literature or musical cultures. That means that under no circumstances will they ever concede that the fault for the catastrophe that befell them was largely their own.

From the start of the modern Zionist project in the late 19th century to the moment when it reached its fruition with the creation of the State of Israel, the steadfast position of the Arab population was that they would never acquiesce to the creation of a "national home for the Jewish people" in the territory that was then known as Palestine. They opposed the Balfour Declaration in 1917 and the subsequent British Mandate for Palestine tasked with the job of creating such a home, even if their right to stay and live in peace there was never threatened by the Jews.

In the subsequent decades, they manifested that opposition with riots, bloody pogroms, and a consistent refusal to consider any plan that might give the Jews sovereignty

over even a small part of the country.

That included the 1947 UN partition plan that, in addition to recommending the creation of a Jewish state, also called for an Arab state inside the borders of the former mandate with Jerusalem being governed by an international authority. The Arab leadership rejected the plan.

The war that would decide the fate of the country began the morning after the UN's adoption of the partition resolution. Local Arabs, as well as others who came from surrounding countries, began a campaign of terrorism, attacking isolated Jewish communities and besieging Jewish Jerusalem. Their goal was to drive out the Jews, hoping that once the armies of five neighboring countries invaded the country on May 15, 1948, they would do just that.

Of course, that's not the way things worked out, and the embattled Jewish state won this fight for its life. And far from celebrating the demise of the Jews, approximately 700,000 Arabs fled their homes, either because they feared what would happen to them under Jewish rule or in a few cases because they were driven out.

Rather than being resettled in the surrounding Arab nations or elsewhere in the Muslim world, they were kept in place in refugee camps. The United Nations created a refugee agency to deal with them — UNRWA — distinct from the single agency that helped the many millions of other homeless peoples throughout the world so as to aid the effort to use them as



David Ben-Gurion declares Israel's independence, at the Tel Aviv Museum, May 14, 1948.
Photo: Wikimedia Commons

a weapon against Israel's legitimacy. Meanwhile, approximately 800,000 Jews fled or were forced to flee their homes in the Arab world and found new lives in Israel or the West.

The Palestinian Arabs could have compromised and gotten a state. But they refused to accept anything less than their maximal demands, and as the years went by, their options in terms of territory and support from the rest of the Arab world dwindled. Not even after Israel repeatedly offered the Palestinian Authority a state would they agree to end their century-old war.

At any point in this narrative, the Palestinians could have accepted one of the deals offered them. If so, there wouldn't be any Jewish communities in the territories for Israel to seek to annex.

But even now, with their cause largely abandoned by much of the Arab world, they refused to negotiate with the administration of President Donald Trump over its "Peace to Prosperity" proposal that would also give

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Where Are Jewish Groups and Others on Rashida Tlaib's 'Nakba' Tweet?

HARRY ONICKEL
FERNDALE

Representative Rashida Tlaib (D-MI) has made no secret of her feelings for Jews and Israel. She allowed a map in her office to be "fixed" by renaming Israel as "Palestine." She dressed in a Palestinian thobe for her swearing in, and has wrapped herself in a Palestinian flag. But don't accuse her of dual loyalties as she has done to Jews. And don't accuse her of hating Jews. She does think there are good Jews. They are usually anti-Zionist Jews who share her hatred of Israel.

Tlaib's most recent anti-Jewish broadside was her May 15 tweet, "Today, Palestinians around the world commemorate the Nakba, Arabic for 'catastrophe' recognizing the ethnic cleansing of indigenous Palestine. ~530 Palestinian neighborhoods were uprooted + destroyed +750,000 Palestinians became refugees."

In consideration of people who lack the patience to read the tweet, and to create more visceral hatred for Israel and sympathy for Palestinians whose Arab grandparents fled their homes during the failed attempt to drive the Jews into the sea, Tlaib included an emotion-laden cartoon featuring two young girls comforting (presumably) an elder holding a key, while gazing at Jerusalem.

Tlaib is free to tweet her bigoted, ahistorical beliefs to her heart's content, but referring to "ethnic cleansing" and Palestinian neighborhoods being uprooted and destroyed are lies as big as Jews being given "a safe haven" by her ancestors after the Holocaust.

The "Nakba" was the failed attempt by five Arab armies to strangle Israel upon its rebirth in 1948. While Israel survived and now thrives (to Tlaib's obvious chagrin), it was Jews who were ethnically cleansed from Judea and Samaria and eastern Jerusalem by the Jordanian occupiers. It was Jews who suffered massacres at Arab hands even before Israel's War of Independence. It was 850,000 Jews who fled or were forced out of Arab and Muslim countries after Israel was reborn.

Tlaib is a sitting congressional representative engaging in an anti-Jewish blood libel and historical revisionism as odious as any coming from the Holocaust denial industry. The Nakba is a carefully crafted, 72-year-old lie designed to usurp the documented facts in

order to deny Israel's legitimacy. The ultimate goal is to destroy the world's sole Jewish state.

Congressional Democrats and Jewish organizations should be speaking out against Tlaib's Nakba tweet. Failure to do so allows antisemitism to grow and spread. We know from history that an increase in verbal attacks against Jews leads to physical attacks, as it has all across America in recent years.

But the Democratic Party will ignore Tlaib's Nakba tweet because the Democratic leadership got burned so badly in trying to call out Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) on her antisemitism. Most major Jewish organizations won't step up because they are afraid of making enemies.

Tlaib was elected in a very safe district, and she will likely hold her seat for as long as she wants the job. When she steps down, someone like her will probably take her place. And as long as tweets like this are ignored and Jewish organizations continue to be silent, she will be joined by other congressional representatives who think like her and will join her in spreading the same revolting lies and Jew-hating message.

We should be up in arms about any instance of antisemitism, as we would be against any other bigotry — especially when it comes from a government official. The time to speak up is now.

Harry Onickel is a freelance writer living in Ferndale, Michigan.



US Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib of Michigan.
Photo: Reuters/Rebecca Cook

World News.

Report: Israel Linked to Cyberattack on Iranian Port Near Strait of Hormuz

BY REUTERS
& ALGEMEINER STAFF

Israel appears to be behind a cyberattack earlier this month on computers at Iran's Shahid Rajaei port that caused massive backups on waterways and roads leading to the facility, *The Washington Post* reported on Monday.

Citing unnamed US and foreign government officials, the *Post* said the May 9 disruption of Iranian computers was presumably in retaliation for an earlier attempted cyberattack on rural water distribution systems in Israel.

The Israeli Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment from *Reuters* on the *Post* report.

The managing director of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization, Mohammad Rastad, told Iran's *ILNA* news agency last week that the cyberattack did not penetrate the organization's computers and was only able to infiltrate and damage a number of private operating systems.



Illustrative. Photo: Reuters / Hamad I Mohammed / File.

A foreign government security official said, however, the attack was "highly accurate" and the damage to the Iranian port was more serious than described in official Iranian accounts, according to the *Post*.

The *Post* reported on May 8 that Iran was linked to the attempted cyberattack on the Israeli water network in April. The intrusion was detected and thwarted before significant damage was done, the *Post* said, citing officials familiar with the incident.

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Reopen

Prof. Yehuda Adler — director of the Talpiot Medical Leadership Program at the Chaim Sheba Medical Center — agreed that the exit strategy was "necessary."

He also described the lockdown policies "a result of unnecessary hysteria" that caused serious damage to Israel's economy, which he described as "abysmal."

Nonetheless, Adler said the use of masks, social distancing, personal hygiene and bans

on mass gatherings must be continued to prevent a second outbreak.

Unfortunately, he said, people were beginning to openly violate these regulations, because "the government's stuttering has caused public distrust in the system."

"Now the economy needs to be brought back to full functioning as soon as possible, under the restrictions on distance and hygiene, because the economic crisis is currently bigger than the health crisis," he added.

Continued from Page A1
Pledge

government and avoid a fourth election that would have wasted 2 billion shekels."

Gantz proudly told the Knesset that "the worst political crisis in its history" is over. He called for an end to the divisiveness that has hurt Israel through the election campaigns and the need for the new government to usher in an "era of reconciliation." Gantz turned to Netanyahu during his inauguration speech and said, "After 11 years at the helm, you accepted the decision of the voters that said they wanted unity. That was a brave and important decision."

Many of the terms of the coalition agreement, including the prime-ministerial rotation and a bloated executive branch, including an unprecedented 36 ministers, were required to bring the political opponents together and prevent yet another costly election cycle. In three consecutive elections, neither Netanyahu nor Gantz was able to form a majority government with their natural political allies.

Coalition chairman Knesset member Miki Zohar of Likud told JNS that "this government is not ideal. But we needed to prevent a fourth election, and many had to compromise on core values and beliefs in order to move Israel forward with a government."

During the ceremony, Netanyahu outlined the major goals of the new government. He said that a special cabinet was being formed to prepare the medical system for a possible second wave of COVID-19, following

a successful initial response to the coronavirus pandemic. He announced that the government will pass "a budget of hope" to assist small business and all employees who have been hurt by the related financial crisis.

The new government is pledging to help citizens expedite regulations and bureaucracy in order to quickly receive fiscal assistance.

Netanyahu also declared that "it is time to apply Israeli law" to Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria, as well as the strategic Jordan Valley along Israel's easternmost border.

"These regions are where the Jewish nation was born and rose. It is time to apply Israeli law on them and write another great chapter in the annals of Zionism," he said.

Netanyahu has set July 1 as the starting point for discussion over annexation. Last week, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Netanyahu and Gantz where he urged progress on President Donald Trump's peace plan.

He further added that his new government will continue to combat the Iranian regime and will also battle the International Criminal Court's attempts to prosecute Israel for what he called "building a kindergarten in [the southern Jerusalem neighborhood of] Gilo and homes in [the Samaria settlement of] Shiloh."

'It won't be easy'

Despite Netanyahu's reference to the formal application of Israeli sovereignty to the disputed territories of Judea and Samaria,

TikTok Video Mocking Holocaust Tattoos on Jews Gets Over 600,000 Views



A screenshot of the offensive TikTok video uploaded by Bradley Brooker. Photo: Screenshot.

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

An antisemitic video that jokes about the tattoos given to prisoners at Nazi concentration camps during the Holocaust has been viewed over 600,000 times on the social media platform TikTok.

The clip is accompanied by a remake of "No Scrubs" by the pop group TLC. A man is shown entering a taxi cab under the subtitle "Jewish guy getting in my taxi," followed by the driver asking for the passenger's name. Another subtitle states that the passenger "Rolls up sleeve to check." The driver then turns to the passenger and lip syncs the song's lyric "No, I don't want your number."

The video, uploaded on April 28 by a

man in the United Kingdom named Bradley Brooker, has been "liked" over 63,000 times. In the video's caption Brooker added "#justajoke #darkhumour #dontbemad."

Brooker said on Monday, "If you read through the comments on the video there have been Jewish people finding the funny side to it. It's not me hating a religion — it's just a joke."

In the video's comments, some TikTok users complimented Brooker's "creative" and "hysterical" clip while others wrote "dont joke about that," and "antisemitic much???"

The Jewish Chronicle reported that TikTok has "received numerous complaints about the video" since it was uploaded, but the video has not been taken down.

outgoing Transportation Minister Betzalel Smotrich of the right-wing Yamina Party told JNS that he is skeptical about whether the bold diplomatic move will actually take place.

During the final negotiations of the coalition agreement, the words Judea and Samaria were removed from the clause regarding the application of sovereignty in order to appease members of Gantz's center-left Blue and White Party.

"It won't be easy for this government to apply Israeli sovereignty on all the areas of Jewish settlements if they could not even dare mention the words Judea and Samaria explicitly in the government's base principles," said Smotrich.

Yamina, which supports the application of sovereignty and was a loyal member of Netanyahu's right-wing bloc throughout the extended election cycle, has decided not to join the government and head to the opposition.

Netanyahu indicated in his inauguration speech that he hoped Yamina, led by outgoing Defense Minister Naftali Bennett, would join the government and be part of diplomatic efforts to officially extend Israeli sovereignty to the Jewish communities in the West Bank.

In addition to responding to the coronavirus and applying sovereignty to the above areas, the new government's core principles include:

The government will strengthen national security, will work to attain peace, and will

insure the peace and security of all the state's citizens;

The government will work to close the social gaps in Israel and to provide equal opportunity for all the state's citizens;

The government will work to bridge all parts of the nation and the state, and will work a national appeasement with a special cabinet to address this issue; and

The government will protect the Jewish identity of the state, while also respecting all religions and traditions according to the values of the Declaration of Independence.

Incoming opposition leader Yair Lapid, who broke off from Gantz's Blue and White Party during coalition negotiations, criticized the unity government, saying that "the coronavirus is being used as an excuse to form the most corrupt, inflated government in Israeli history with 36 ministers. Today, this [Knesset] building has lost the respect of the Israeli public."

Opposition member MK Moshe Ya'alon, a former Likud defense minister, and former member of Blue and White, told JNS that "the new ministers are not swearing their allegiance to the State of Israel because they are not acting for the benefit of the state. Rather, they are pledging their allegiance to a prime minister who has been indicted for bribery, fraud and breach of trust in order to provide him with immunity and a defense shield."

Trials on corruption charges in three separate cases against Netanyahu are scheduled to start later this month.

World News.



A total of 25 olive trees were planted in southern Israel to honor the memory of Lori Gilbert-Kaye, 60, who was shot and killed by a lone teenage gunman on April 27, 2019 during Shabbat services at Chabad of Poway, Calif. Photo: Combat Anti-Semitism.

Olive Trees Planted in Israel Honor the Memory of Shooting Victim Lori Kaye

BY JNS.org

A total of 25 olive trees were planted at a ceremony in southern Israel to honor the memory of Lori Gilbert-Kaye, 60, who was shot and killed by a lone teenage gunman on April 27, 2019 during Shabbat morning services on the last day of Passover at Chabad of Poway in Southern California. Three others were injured in the attack.

The ceremony took place at Kfar Silver Youth Village, part of the World ORT Kadima Mada school network, where local children helped plant the trees.

A plaque bears the inscription: "May these trees grow to be a source of strength and hope of a bright future, befitting of Lori's blessed memory."

The tree-planting initiative was spearheaded by Michael Ross, one of the winners of the Combat Anti-Semitism movement's recent Venture Creative Contest to fight antisemitism.

Ross initiated the project to plant olive trees in honor of victims of antisemitic attacks. Those in memory of Kaye are the first to be planted in this effort.

"I wanted to create a meaningful response to antisemitic attacks. The olive trees will grow as a symbol of life and hope in the face of hatred. Wherever antisemitic attacks occur, they will serve as a physical reminder that we must eradicate the evil of hatred and discrimination," he said.

Combat Anti-Semitism is a non-partisan, global grassroots movement of individuals and organizations across all religions and faiths, united around the goal of ending antisemitism in all its forms.

Last month, it hosted a virtual memorial ceremony to mark the first anniversary of the Poway shooting. In addition to congregants, participants included US Special Envoy for Combating Anti-Semitism Elan Carr; Israeli Ambassador to United Nations Danny Danon; and Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief.

In Tweets, Ex-US Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney Questions Number of Holocaust Victims

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

A former US congresswoman and notorious anti-Israel activist and conspiracy theorist has engaged in Holocaust denial on social media twice over the past three days.

Cynthia McKinney, 65, who left Congress in 2007, posted a link to an article on Saturday from the Israeli daily *Haaretz* that explored the issue of how the number of victims of the Holocaust was calculated.

McKinney commented, "So, the figure wasn't six million after all?? What about those punished and even imprisoned for saying so?? Is this a 'You can't say, but I can' kind of thing??"

Replies to McKinney's tweet were replete with Holocaust denial, with users posting statements like "Six million fake news also," "Easily the most epic criminal extortion racket ever perpetrated on humanity," and "Nuremberg, where the Germans had been brutally tortured into saying anything asked of them."

Many commenters, however, criticized McKinney, with comments such as "No wonder you're 'former' congresswoman — good riddance anti-semite Holocaust Denier" and "Cool, cool, literal Holocaust denial."

On Monday, McKinney responded, saying, "*Haaretz* writes, 'According to Yad Vashem's estimates, once the double listings are removed, the database contains about 4.8 million names.' I post. Message to me: 'What turned you into an anti-Jewish bigot and Holocaust denier? You're a piece of s**t.'"

The article in fact did not say the 4.8 million names were the final tally of victims, only that the names of the rest are likely to remain unknown.

New Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz Vows Support for Trump Peace Plan 'With Everything It Includes'

BY BENJAMIN KERSTEIN

New Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz vowed on Monday to work toward implementing US President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan "with everything it includes."

Speaking at his inauguration ceremony at IDF headquarters in Tel Aviv, Gantz said, "I am committed to doing everything to advance political arrangements and strive for peace."

"Peace has been and remains an important Zionist desire," he added.

At the same event, Gantz's predecessor at the Defense Ministry, Naftali Bennett, asserted that Iran had begun pulling out of Syria.

"Iran is significantly reducing the scope of its forces in Syria and even evacuating a number of bases," Bennett said. "Though Iran has begun the withdrawal process from Syria, we need to complete the work. It's in reach."

Earlier on Monday, new Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi — a member of Gantz's centrist Blue and White party — called the Trump proposal a "historic opportunity," but also sought to reassure the Jewish state's neighbors concerned about potential West Bank annexation moves.

The US initiative, Ashkenazi noted, would be pursued "responsibly, in coordination and in dialogue with our neighbors, while maintaining the peace agreements and the strategic interests of the State of Israel."

Both Egypt and Jordan have formal peace treaties with Israel, and Ashkenazi emphasized, "I see great importance in strengthening strategic ties with Egypt and Jordan as important allies in addressing the challenges in the region."

He added that he would "promote contacts and cooperation with other countries in the region, in order to strengthen the strategic position of the State of Israel."

Domestic Islamist Extremism Arrests and Plots in US Jumped 50% Last Year, New ADL Data Shows

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Arrests and plots linked to domestic Islamist extremism in the US increased by 50 percent last year, new data published by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) on Monday showed.

According to the data, compiled by the ADL's Center on Extremism, there were a total of 30 arrests linked to domestic Islamist extremism in 2019, nine of which were for terror plots.

"While there were no attacks or murders linked to domestic Islamist extremism last year, the findings indicate that Islamist extremism still poses a significant threat to the United States," an ADL statement said.

ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt commented, "Make no mistake — the threat of Islamist extremist activity in the United States is serious and cannot be ignored. We are deeply grateful for the efforts of federal and local law enforcement to investigate and disrupt these potentially dangerous attacks."

The ADL statement added, "In addition to the nine individuals arrested for plotting attacks, 21 others were arrested for engaging in domestic criminal activity motivated by Islamist extremism. Of those 21 individuals, a large majority faced charges for attempting to provide material support to ISIS. Approximately 70 percent of domestic Islamist extremist criminal activity in 2019 was inspired by ISIS, which has reportedly lost all of its territory in Iraq and Syria."

Oren Segal — vice president for ADL's Center on Extremism — noted, "ISIS's ability to continue inspiring a large percentage of violent activity even after being effectively disbanded demonstrates the lasting influence of its violent ideology and propaganda on Islamist extremist activity in the United States. As long as the ideology persists and spreads online, extremists will continue to be inspired by violent rhetoric and instruction."



McKinney, a Georgia native, is known for her radical views, including conspiracy theories regarding the 9/11 attacks.

After being defeated in a 2006 primary, she left the Democratic party and joined the far-left Green party and later the Libertarian party. In 2008, she was the Green party's candidate for president, and received 0.12% of the vote.

She has a long history of anti-Israel activities, including participating in two attempts to breach the Israeli naval blockade of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) said



Former US Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. Photo: Reuters / Joshua Roberts.

that McKinney has accused Israel of genocide, referred to the pro-Israel lobby as a "ruthless" entity that "rears its ugly head in too many facets of life in this country, particularly political life" and engineered her political defeats, and personally met with representatives of Hezbollah and Hamas.

She also referred to US President Donald Trump as a "Zionist puppet."



Haaretz writes, "According to Yad Vashem's estimates, once the double listings are removed, the database contains about 4.8 million names." I post. Message to me: "What turned you into an anti-Jewish bigot and Holocaust denier? You're a piece of shit." haaretz.com/israel-news/p...

U.S. News.

Former Nazi Hunter Targeting Whitney Museum of Art in NYC Over 'Capitulation' to Anti-Israel Activists

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

A former top official with the US Justice Department who hunted Nazi war criminals for two decades is spearheading a legal effort to strip the famed Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City of its tax-exempt status.

The move follows a bitter row last year over the resignation of a board member, in which accusations of political bias and antisemitism played a decisive role.

In a letter to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated May 8, Neal Sher — a former head of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations and an ex-director of the pro-Israel lobbying organization AIPAC — charged that senior executives and staff members at the Whitney, including museum director Adam Weinberg, had "knowingly engaged in conduct which was flagrantly at odds with the Whitney's charitable purpose."

Wrote Sher: "Specifically, they orchestrated and acquiesced in a concerted smear campaign against Warren Kanders, a distinguished member of the Board, in order to advance a transparently political agenda which had no relevance whatsoever to the museum's charitable purpose."

Kanders stepped down as vice chairman of the Whitney in July 2019 following a vocal activist campaign protesting his Florida-based company, Safariland, for its sales of tear gas to law enforcement agencies in the US and Israel.

In his resignation letter, the well-known art collector and philanthropist said that the "campaign of attacks against me and my company that has been waged these past several months has threatened to undermine the important work of the Whitney. I joined this board to help the museum prosper. I do not wish to play a role, however inadvertent, in its demise."

According to Sher, the individuals and groups that demanded Kanders' resignation were "at the nexus of widespread antisemitic, anti-capitalist and terrorism-connected movements." Sher identified Amin Hussein — a Palestinian-American activist who founded the radical organization Decolonize This Place (DTP) — as the "chief agitator and ringleader" of the protests against Kanders.

"Rather than protecting the integrity of the Whitney's raison d'être — which is the basis for its charitable status —

Report: Fearing Biden Victory, Israel's US Envoy Pushing for West Bank Annexation Before Election

BY ALGEMEINER STAFF

Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer is lobbying the Trump administration for a green light to go head with the annexation of parts of the West Bank, Axios reported on Monday.

According to the report, Dermer, fearing a Joe Biden victory in the US presidential election in November, believes Israel must move forward with annexation in the coming months.

Dermer and his boss, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, were "concerned that a Biden victory would dramatically shift US policy on Israel-Palestine, and that Israel must create facts on the ground before the US elections."

The ambassador's message, the report said, citing three sources, was Israel had to "move on annexation now because we don't know what's going to happen in the elections and Biden might win. We have a window of opportunity now and we need to use it."

museum leadership appeased Husain and his band of followers, empowered his unlawful methods and capitulated to his demands," Sher wrote in his IRS letter.

In a March 2019 blog post, DTP included Safariland's business relationship with Israel as one of several reasons to target Kanders.

"Safariland manufactures tear gas used against migrant families at the Mexico/US border, water protectors at Standing Rock, Black folk (sic) in Ferguson, Palestinians during the Great Return March, +++. Safariland isn't 'over there,'" the group claimed.

In an interview with the Financial Times on Monday, Sher explained why he was targeting the Whitney's tax-exempt status.

"I've been around long enough to know that in order to get things done you have to know where to appropriately apply pressure," he said. Investigations by the IRS "get under



A taxi cab passes by the Whitney Museum of American Art, in New York City, April 23, 2015. Photo: Reuters / Brendan McDermid.

the fingernails," he added.

Those who supported the Whitney had "every right to expect, indeed to demand, that their donations be used for legitimate charitable purposes, rather than be hijacked to advance unrelated political causes," Sher emphasized in his letter to the IRS.

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Opinion.

Coronavirus Dating Demands Everyone Become a Matchmaker



SHMULEY BOTEACH
ENGELWOOD

The coronavirus pandemic has exposed a vast landscape of loneliness across the world, where so many singles are either quarantining alone or even with parents or friends but without a romantic partner. In my near nightly Zoom broadcasts with my daughter Chana, who created the Kosher.Sex company, modeled on my book of the same name, we encounter singles from around the world who lament the impossibility of dating in this painful time. Their personal lives have been put on hold and with the lockdowns extending indefinitely, they don't know when they'll be able to go out and find their soulmate.

The virus' evisceration of the singles scene has only put the nail in the coffin of a troubled and antiquated dating scene that was already on life-support. Singles in the modern age have one of two options. If they are more secular, they go to a party or a nightclub where they hope to flirt and meet someone, knowing that many people there are not serious about relationships and only want a hookup. Then there is the degrading spectacle of watching grown men and women walking around a bar hoping to be noticed, or speaking to a member of the opposite sex while scanning distractedly to see if there is anyone "better" to connect with. If they are more traditional and religious, they may rely on a matchmaker — in our Jewish religious circles, a *shadchan* — almost always someone who is not a professional at making matches and whose time commitment, therefore, is far from optimal. As a Chabad family we have encountered this numerous times, relying on

the goodwill of volunteers who mean well but whose matchmaking efforts are usually in addition to a full-time job.

Even Zoom dating during the virus, which many have embraced, reinforces the typical scenario of physically attractive men and women getting all the attention while those with less visual virtues are ignored.

Curing the singles scene is one of the foremost priorities especially for the Jewish community whose greatest challenge today is not intermarriage but lack of marriage. There are precious few Jewish babies being born as Jewish men and women in jaded singles fortresses like New York continue the never-ending search for "the best." As a religion that relies for our numbers not on conversion but birthrate, the lack of or significant delay of marriage spells an existential crisis for Jewish continuity.

How is a young woman who wants to find a man who is husband material supposed to date today?

Some have offered Zoom speed-dating with 10 men in one night. But surely this is not a solution for a generation of commitment-phobic young people who are already dating addicts and love anorexics. Why cater to their obsession for variety by having them video date 10 people at once! And how is this preparation for monogamy?

And even before the coronavirus, internet dating suffered from a surfeit of variety with millions of people offering their profiles. On the one hand, that means one heck of a lot of choice. On the other hand, the endless number of people whom you can either swipe left or swipe right for has stunted countless others who have become addicted to the search itself. Furthermore, on Internet dating sites it's still the picture that comes before the personality.

Is the solution to be found with fancy professional matchmakers whom you pay

to do the searching for you? I was once an advocate of professional matchmaking. But witnessing today's matchmakers cater to the male addiction to sex objects and the female addiction to success objects leaves me cold. Shallow values have penetrated even the very religious dating scene, where stick-thin women are paired up with young men with lucrative professions, and where character is subordinated to pedigree. And too many matchmakers are influenced by shallow values as they pair up men and women based on the most peripheral considerations. Matchmaking was once directed at bringing two lonely souls together. Today it's about elite services charging a fortune as it promises successful women introductions to men with Lamborghinis.

I want my daughters to find young men of character and values, who carry themselves humbly, have force of personality, and whose dream is to enrich the world around them while prioritizing the woman at their side. Men who will love God, put family first, be devoted to community, and confer dignity on others. But without going on the actual dates for my daughters (which they are mysteriously opposed to) how will they meet quality men?

And with the coronavirus confining us to our homes, young men and women are losing months of soul-mate searching while being further depressed by the awful news that the coronavirus brings.

How will we break this stranglehold of lovelessness?

There is a solution: we can deputize all the Earth's inhabitants to become matchmakers. Every man and every woman should take it upon themselves to introduce single friends to someone of character in their personal network. We all believe in acts of loving-kindness. During the coronavirus, many of us are making the effort to call people we know

are alone or reach out to relatives or friends we have not communicated with in a while.

Now, is there any higher act of kindness than permanently curing someone else's loneliness? I'm not asking to pity singles. They are not desperate and every unmarried person is still a complete universe unto themselves. But marriage makes them even more whole, just as friendship enriches our lives much more than if we existed alone. If there is one lesson we have learned from the isolation imposed by the coronavirus, it is that we are social creatures, just as the Bible says in reference to Adam — "It is not good for man to be alone" — when he inhabited the earth without a companion.

I am suggesting that all of us take upon ourselves the obligation of increasing love in the world. An hour a week devoted to thinking through possible connections, sending out some texts and emails to friends and acquaintances, and trying to responsibly make some connections, is all it takes.

In the United States 80 million American women live without a man. They are productive, they have careers, and they contribute immeasurably to the world around them. But as we Jews, who have wandered the earth through persecution and torment, have learned, there is no substitute for family, and being loved unconditionally by a spouse is one of life's greatest gifts.

We can make this blessing a reality. When the cursed virus dissipates, we can invite two single friends to our homes for Sabbath dinner in the hope that a casual introduction might lead to something romantic and permanent. If God could play matchmaker to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, surely we can follow suit in our own living rooms and dining rooms.

But until that time when we are reunited as a community, we can use all the modern technological tools — through social media and our cell phones — to work on ending people's loneliness and empower all the earth's inhabitants to become matchmakers.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach's memoir Holocaust Holiday: One Family's Descent into Genocide Memory Hell will be published later this year. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RabbiShmuley.

Don't Criticize Israel on Judea/Samaria



STEVE FRANK/
JNS.org

In the months ahead, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to announce plans to extend Israeli sovereignty over portions of the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) containing the vast majority of Israeli settlements. This territory comprises 30% of the West Bank. The remaining land, where most Palestinians reside, will be reserved for an independent Palestinian state under the Trump peace plan — should the Palestinian people and its leadership choose to live in peace side-by-side next to the Jewish state.

Although Israel's anticipated action is consistent with the US government's most recent peace proposal, it has been greeted in other quarters with criticism. In a recent op-ed in *The New York Times*, Daniel Pipes, president of the Middle East Forum, ominously warns that any such "annexation" would

"damage Israel's relations with the Trump administration, the Democrats, Europeans and Arab leaders, as well as destabilize the region, radicalize the Israeli left, and harm the Zionist goal of a Jewish State."

During the recent Democratic primary season, several leading presidential candidates threatened to use US aid to Israel as financial "leverage" to ward off any such action by Jerusalem. Joe Biden did not, but he has denounced Israel's plan as likely to undermine the long defunct "two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Israel's proposed action in the West Bank is lawful, pragmatic, and designed to break the peace process deadlock, as even the director of Pipes' own Middle East Forum has effectively argued. Others have also expressed disagreement with Pipes (see here and here).

The Jewish claim to Judea and Samaria goes back at least 3,000 years and is supported by literary, historical, and archaeological evidence. In 1967, Israel legally acquired territory in Judea and Samaria in a defensive war after being attacked by Jordan, which had itself been illegally occupying the land for the

past 20 years. Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria are lawful and consistent with international law, as the US government recently underscored.

The present Israeli plan will extend sovereignty only to present Jewish settlements and will in no way interfere with Arab cities or the vast majority of Arab residents, who will continue to be governed by the Palestinian Authority as agreed under the Oslo Accords. The plan does not prevent the granting of Israeli citizenship to the limited number of Arabs who will fall within the domain of Israeli sovereignty.

Nor does the plan foreclose the possibility of an independent Palestinian state in the remaining 70 percent of the West Bank where the vast majority of Palestinians reside, should they choose to pursue peace. Having rejected proposals to create just such a state on at least six occasions over the last century, the Israeli action will strongly convey the message to Palestinians that rejectionism has its consequences.

One can trust the Israelis to act in their best national interest, as citizens of any other country do. As for the dire warnings and threats by opinion writers, editorialists, NGOs, and others who make a good living disparaging any action by the State of Israel, perhaps the best response is the one former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin made to then-Senator Joseph Biden in 1982.

At the time, Biden was chastising Begin during a Senate hearing over Israel's settle-



View of Ma'aleh Adumim in Judea and Samaria on Jan. 1, 2017. Photo: Yaniv Nadav/Flash90.

ment policy in the West Bank, threatening to cut off economic aid to the Jewish state if it did not immediately cease its settlement activities. Begin forcefully replied to Biden in words equally applicable today:

Don't threaten us with cutting off your aid. It will not work. I am not a Jew with trembling knees. I am a proud Jew with 3,700 years of civilized history. Nobody came to our aid when we were dying in the gas chambers and ovens. Nobody came to our aid when we were striving to create our country. We paid for it. We fought for it. We died for it. We will stand by our principles. We will defend them. And, when necessary, we will die for them again, with or without your aid.

Steve Frank is an attorney, retired after a 30-year career as an appellate lawyer with the US Department of Justice in Washington, DC. His writings on Israel, the law, and architecture have appeared in publications including The Washington Post, The Chicago Tribune, The Jerusalem Post, The Times of Israel, and Moment magazine.

Opinion.

Law to Track Crimes Tied to Antisemitism?



ZIVA DAHL
NEW YORK

Arizona legislators are trying to amend their existing state hate crime law to track crimes “that manifest evidence of prejudice based on antisemitism.” A version of the bill passed the House 52-8 in late February with overwhelming bipartisan support. It was expected that the Senate would also pass their version of this legislation. That is, until some Democrats did an about-face due to pressure from the ACLU and others.

Current Arizona law gives the judiciary the option to enhance sentencing in crimes motivated by malice due to a victim’s actual or perceived race, religion, color, disability, national origin, gender or sexual orientation. The proposed amendment, carefully designed to cover only criminal acts, adds the category of “antisemitism” when state officials investigate and track crime with potential discriminatory motivation. Additionally, under the bill, officials are required to use the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as an evaluative tool to decide when criminal conduct is motivated by antisemitism.

The sponsors of this legislation believe that the addition of the category “antisemitism” to existing law will result in better tracking of bias crimes, and provide more accurate data to help policy decision-making. Arizona is not alone in its efforts to use the IHRA antisemitism definition as an evaluative tool. Legislators in Iowa are arguing for the inclusion of this definition in their discrimination law as well.

The internationally-accepted IHRA working definition of antisemitism, also adopted by the US Departments of State and Justice, encompasses the age-old hatred targeting Jews, as well as modern antisemitism aimed at Israel as a proxy for Jews. It clearly distinguishes between legitimate criticisms of Israel that are protected as free speech, and expressions that cross the line into unprotected antisemitic hate speech. Among the many examples of contemporary Jew-hatred are “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination,” claiming that the existence of Israel is a “racist endeavor,”



The Arizona Capitol Museum building in Phoenix. Photo: Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons.

and “drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.”

With legislators eager to address growing antisemitism in Arizona, the effort had large-scale support — that is, until the ACLU and the anti-Israel organizations Students for Justice in Palestine, American Muslims for Palestine and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and others launched a well-orchestrated and effective campaign of “intimidation by misinformation” in the Senate. They charged that the bill uses the IHRA definition as a weapon to stifle free speech. Even though the bill clearly states that “antisemitism does not include criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country,” opponents nevertheless claimed that the bill criminalizes criticism of Israel.

According to one of the bill’s Democratic sponsors, support among Democratic leaders quickly evaporated.

The vote in the Senate was postponed, and the legislature recessed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Jake Bennett, Director of State Legislative Affairs for the Israeli-American Coalition for Action, is working to promote the legislation. Interviewed by the Haym Salomon Center, Bennett expressed the opinion that the bill will pass even without full or broad Democratic support. However, he hopes that some Democrats will vote “yes” to maintain the bipartisan nature of this effort and send a united message that antisemitism has no place in Arizona.

In the age of coronavirus, when conspiracy theories on both left and right blame Jews and Israel for the worldwide pandemic, effective hate crime laws are all the more imperative. Will Democrats in the Arizona Senate validate the growing crisis of antisemitic-motivated crime by supporting this legislation, or will they fall prey to fear-mongering and propaganda?

Ziva Dahl is a senior fellow with the news and public policy group Haym Salomon Center.

The US Demands Israel Takes Its Side in the New Cold War With China

SOPHIE SHULMAN/
CTech

In Israel, defense has always been the number one item on the agenda, so when US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made a rushed visit to Jerusalem at the height of the

coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis, most people assumed it had to do with matters of defense or Israel’s recently announced plans to annex the West Bank. But, as opposed to Israel, where defense reigns supreme, for Americans it is always about the money.

Israelis were surprised to find out that the reason Pompeo exited lockdown and took a plane to Israel at this time was to warn Jerusalem against extending its economic

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cooperation with China. The warning was particularly meant to address a desalination plant, but that is just the tip of the iceberg. The unusual visit was meant to signal to Israel that the war is already here and it will soon have to pick a side.

This time it won’t only be a trade war. A new cold war between the US and China is in the cards and like in the original cold war with Russia it will be impossible for Israel, which is unquestionably a US ally, to be in the non-aligned camp.

Navigating the treacherous waters of the conflict between the US on one side and China, which before the crisis was expected to bypass the US as the world’s largest economy, on the other, will be a daunting task for Israel’s incoming Minister of Foreign Affairs Gabi Ashkenazi. Israel has worked hard over the past few decades to expand its trade relations with China, an effort that has borne fruit in recent years.

The events taking place on the global stage may force the Israeli government to hit “delete” on these processes. The next war will be dubbed the “supply chain war” and the pieces have already started moving on the board.

“These stupid supply chains that are all over the world — we have a supply chain where they’re made in all different parts of the world. ... And one little piece of the world goes bad and the whole thing is messed up,” US President Donald Trump said in an interview with Fox Business Network that aired Thursday, while Pompeo was traveling to Israel. “We should have them all in the US,” Trump concluded.

A few hours after the interview, New York and Taipei-listed Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) announced it would build a new \$12 billion manufacturing plant in Arizona. It was not a coincidence, rather the result of constant pressure by the Trump administration that does not want TSMC to provide its chips to Chinese mobile phone manufacturer Huawei. TSMC also makes chips for Apple, Nvidia, and Qualcomm.

Apropos Huawei, on Friday the US Commerce Department said it was moving to restrict Huawei’s ability to manufacture and obtain semiconductor chips using American-made software and technology. The response from Beijing was swift, hinting that it may retaliate by including major American companies, the likes of Qualcomm, Cisco, Boeing, and Apple, on China’s unreliable entity list. Such a move would strike a particularly severe blow to Boeing, which is already in a dire financial situation due to the flaw in its fleet of MAX 737 aircraft.

The establishment of the TSMC factory in Arizona marks the start of an onshoring campaign, a term that will become prevalent in the coming years. Decades of globalization, which began after the end of the cold war and the fall of the Soviet bloc, pushed for the distribution of manufacturing operations to locations with low production costs. That is how the pre-Covid-19 world found itself with China and East Asia as its factory.

The global pandemic and the supply chain disruption it caused exposed the high level of dependence on that part of the world, most notably when Apple said it would not meet its first quarter targets because of the cessation of activities in its Chinese plants.

It is not only TSMC. Intel is already significantly expanding its old factory in Arizona and is reportedly in talks to establish another manufacturing plant there. In a recent conversation with analysts, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries’s CEO Kåre Schultz was asked about onshoring of production facilities to ensure the raw materials and active agents needed for the drug industry are safely on US soil in case of future crises.



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu meet in Brasilia, Jan. 1, 2019. Photo: Avi Ohayon / GPO.

The White House is currently drafting an order that would force the manufacture of certain types of medicine to take place within the US as a move that could rearrange the supply chain map. Today, 72% of the raw materials for the US drug industry are produced abroad.

Schultz did not rule out the possibility of moving part of Teva’s production, which is currently done mostly in China and India, to the US, but said it was a political issue. He did not shy away from saying that such a shift would require significant waivers and benefits for Teva since the US was unable to compete with Asia when it comes to production costs.

Coincidentally or not, this week Teva cut off settlement talks with the US Justice Department’s antitrust division over the generic drug price-fixing scandal. If the issue reaches a criminal indictment against Teva, it will no longer be allowed to sell drugs as part of the US’s national social insurance program Medicare. It seems like Teva is counting on the administration not pushing for an indictment as long as there are talks of opening new production operations in the US.

Either way, onshoring is just in its early days and will likely take as long as the reverse trend took. Japan too has announced that it was establishing a new fund aimed at reviving production within its borders.

For the time being, the US and China are still considered adversaries and not enemies, but the Chinese need robust tech production and export in order to meet the five-year plan that ends next year. They may not care if textile or toy manufacturing plants relocate to other countries, like Vietnam or Bangladesh, but computer chips and drug industry raw materials are a different story.

It is too soon to determine how the government in Beijing will react to the US government’s policies; after all, the two countries were on the verge of signing a new trade deal that would reduce Washington’s trade deficit and raise taxes on Chinese products, but the deal was supposed to have a second phase the future of which is currently uncertain.

Being a tech powerhouse, Israel finds itself deep in the brewing cauldron, mostly because China sees Israel as a means to attaining the technological superiority that the US fears so much. The issue is so important to Beijing that the Chinese embassy to Israel wrote an open letter in response to Pompeo’s visit which was published by Israeli English language newspaper The Jerusalem Post to ensure that Americans could read it too.

In the letter, the embassy official rebuked Pompeo’s anti-China rhetoric, referred to Israelis as “Jewish friends,” and explained that the Americans were to blame for their current dire situation because they “missed the opportunity window” despite Beijing’s warnings. But the crux of the letter came to show how small Israel’s share in Chinese investments is.

The letter lamented that by the end of 2018, China’s investment in Israel only accounted for 0.4% of China’s investment across the world, and 3% of total foreign investment in Israel. “Over the past five years, only 4% of the investment in Israeli tech industries were from China, and only 3% of merger and acquisition deals among Israeli start-ups are

Continued on Page A9

Impressions.

One Professor's Anti-Israel Fantasy

BY JEROLD AUERBACH

Of the laceration of Israel there is no end. The most recent contributor to this favored pastime is Noura Erakat, a Rutgers University professor and human rights attorney. Her impeccable left-wing credentials include legal advocacy for the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement and the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.

I — unless “following” means decades later. As she recognizes, the earliest expressions of Palestinian nationalism “reflected a broad Arab nationalist consciousness,” expressed “in the form of a Greater Syria.”

For Professor Erakat, the transformation of “Palestine” into Israel in 1948 illustrated “international law’s utility in advancing settler-colonial ambitions.” To fulfill its national aspirations, Israel would embrace “the legal fiction of Pales-

am a descendant of Russian and Rumanian refugees, not a “refugee”). Ironically there are now as many UNRWA employees as there are living Palestinian refugees.

Professor Erakat is obsessed with the “settler-colonial” cruelty of an “apartheid regime” (Israel). Yet she blames Palestinian leaders for abandoning “a politics of resistance,” thereby reducing “the potential of its legal strategies to challenge the geopolitical structure sustaining



Palestinians gather as tear gas is fired by Israeli forces during a protest marking Land Day and the first anniversary of a surge of border riots, at the Israel-Gaza border fence east of Gaza City, March 30, 2019. Photo: Reuters / Mohammed Salem.

Her new book, *Justice For Some*, is an attempt to implant her political bias within a scholarly framework of Israeli “colonial domination” based on “racial and ethnic discrimination” as the Jewish state becomes “a de jure apartheid regime.” Why go any further with a diatribe that embraces every current cliché about a malevolent Jewish state? Because it exposes, if inadvertently, the politicized distortions about Israel that currently pass for academic scholarship.

Erakat’s rendition of history begins after World War I with “the settler-colonial framework” that reveals “the colonial nature of the Palestinian struggle.” There had been no mention of a distinctive “Palestinian” identity or community in the Balfour Declaration, which “justified the juridical erasure of a Palestinian community” — a community that did not yet exist. “British policy,” she writes, “demanded that Palestinians not exist as a people in order to pave the way for British colonial ambitions in the Middle East.”

But her narrative includes the contradictory (and erroneous) claim that Palestine nationalism emerged following World War

tinian nonexistence.” Yet she ignores the reality of “Palestinian nonexistence” in national terms until two decades later, following the Six-Day War, when Israel regained the Biblical land known as Judea and Samaria. Only then, she concedes, did a distinctive “Palestinian” people begin to emerge, claiming the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean as its own.

The theme of Israel’s “colonial domination” frames, pervades, and distorts Professor Erakat’s narrative. But the worst is yet to come. By 2018, as the result of Israeli conquest of “Palestinian” land, the Jewish state was “on the cusp of expanding its sovereignty across nearly all the territory between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.” Israel, she anticipates, would then “enter a phase of unabashed racial discrimination: a de jure apartheid regime.”

Erakat embraces the fiction that there are now “over five million Palestinian refugees.” This illusory number is embraced by UNRWA, established in 1949 after the Arab attempt to annihilate the fledgling Jewish state had failed. The most accurate current number of living refugees is approximately 30,000; the other five million are descendants of refugees (just as I

Palestinian oppression.” Committed to statehood (over resistance), they are “obscuring the reality of settler-colonial removal and inadvertently enabling an apartheid regime.”

Professor Erakat’s analysis is reduced to the laceration of Israel, which “established itself by force and insists on maintaining its settler-sovereignty by force.” It is hardly surprising that she accuses Israel of “overseeing a singular regime based on racial and ethnic discrimination characterized by ... apartheid.” This is ideological propaganda, not history.

Appropriately, Professor Erakat’s book cover displays enthusiastic praise from Professor Richard Falk, who has elsewhere asserted that it is not “an irresponsible overstatement to associate the treatment of Palestinians with the criminalized Nazi record of collective atrocity”; and Angela Davis, who has described Israel as the practitioner of modern-day apartheid. Professor Erakat is in good company.

*Jerold S. Auerbach is the author of *Print to Fit: The New York Times, Zionism and Israel 1896-2016*, chosen by Ruth Wisse and Martin Kramer as a Mosaic Best Book in 2019.*

Legals.

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Opinion.

Israel and Egypt Don't Need American Peacekeepers in the Sinai



In May 1967, the withdrawal of peacekeepers from the Sinai Peninsula set in motion a series of events that led to war. But those who think such a move in May 2020 would have similar consequences, or really any at all, are living in the past.

Yet as far as some observers are concerned, a Trump-administration proposal to withdraw American troops from the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) who are part of the peacekeeping troops that monitor the border between Israel and Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula is a shocking move that could undermine the peace treaty they are tasked with enforcing.

For decades, such a move would have been unthinkable. The Sinai was the staging ground for Egypt's invasion of Israel in 1948, and the scene of battle between the two nations in 1956, 1967, and 1973.

In 1967, in what appeared to be the prelude to another Egyptian attempt to destroy the Jewish state, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser demanded that the United Nations withdraw peacekeepers

Continued from Page A7 Demands

with Chinese companies. China's investment over the years is even less than a single Intel acquisition," the letter read.

The reference to Intel is no coincidence either. A large portion of Israel's export to China is the result of the work of the American semiconductor giant, which also makes up a central part of those "stupid supply chains," Trump was referring to.

Although exports to China are infinitely smaller in volume than Israeli exports to the US, Israel's largest trading partner, they are growing rapidly. Trade in commodities increased by 140% between 2014 and 2018. The services sector

Continued from Page A2 'Nabka'

them a state, albeit not as large a one as they could have gotten in 2000 or 2008, let alone 1948. And the official newspaper of the Palestinian Authority this week published a front-page article again vowing Israel's destruction as a religious imperative.

The lesson of the *nakba* is not one of the world's indifference, Israel's alleged sins or even the

that had been put in place after Israel withdrew from the peninsula following the 1956 Sinai campaign. The world body timidly complied, thus convincing Israel that it had no choice but to strike first lest it be fighting for its survival on its own territory.

The 1979 treaty signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin sought to end that cycle of war, though the peace it created was fragile and cold. Begin gambled not merely on Sadat's sincerity, but on the idea that Egyptians were tired of fighting in a war to destroy Israel that was not in their interests. After Islamists assassinated Sadat in 1981, it seemed as if it might have all been a mistake. Yet despite the hostility toward Jews that pervaded Egyptian culture, Sadat's successor Hosni Mubarak kept the bargain, if for no other reason than to keep receiving billions in American aid that was part of the treaty.

Throughout the last 40 years, American troops have been a big part of the MFO that guaranteed the peace. The US contingent is made up of several hundred soldiers in a unit that also contains forces from 13 other countries. However, the situation in the Sinai in 2020 is far different from the one that existed there in past decades when the MFO truly could be said to have

also saw rapid growth with an increase of 9% totaling \$735 million in 2019.

This number is interesting because it mainly reflects the work of research and development centers of Chinese companies in Israel, which may be one of the sensitive points Israel will have to address as the China-US conflict escalates. One of these development centers is Toga Networks, a subsidiary of Huawei.

The numbers suggest that Israel has much to lose if it is forced to unequivocally choose a side. The best case scenario may be hoping that Trump gets distracted by his reelection campaign and Israel can continue to walk the fence in the meantime.

suffering of the Palestinians. It is, instead, the folly of maximalism, in which by seeking everything, they consistently wind up with nothing. What will happen this year with the settlements is just more proof of the fact that if all you care about is preserving a victim status, the price of intransigence will continue to rise.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS-Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter @jonathans_tobin.

kept the peace.

The current Egyptian government led by President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is closely aligned with Israel. While the Egyptian people may still remain hostile to Jews, the military government that el-Sisi leads looks to the Jewish state as an ally against a mutual enemy: the Muslim Brotherhood. The Hamas terrorist movement that governs Gaza is an offshoot of the Islamist group whose leaders ran Egypt for a year following the fall of Mubarak during the Arab Spring protests of 2011. El-Sisi led the popular coup that deposed the Brotherhood's government in 2013, and has brutally repressed the Islamists ever since.

Like other Sunni Arab nations, Egypt sees Israel as an ally since the United States abandoned its interests by agreeing to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. Egyptians also not unreasonably blame Obama and America for the brief ascendancy of the Muslim Brotherhood in 2012-13, since it was Obama who helped push out Mubarak. Egypt also fears the Hamas regime in the Gaza Strip and has cooperated with Israel in imposing a blockade on that rogue terrorist regime. In the last year, it has also stepped up the building of its own separation wall around the Strip in order to stop the flow of arms and goods to and from Gaza. At the same time, the Egyptians have fought in the Sinai against ISIS terrorists who want to destroy el-Sisi's government.

The Sinai peacekeepers are obsolete. The MFO is no longer separating potential combatants, but is instead an innocent spectator to an Egyptian effort to eradicate terrorism while Israelis cheer them on. The US troops are in greater danger of getting caught in the crossfire between el-Sisi's forces and their antagonists than anything else. What the international community needs to do in the Sinai is to get out of the way of the Egyptians, not separate them from Israel.

Nevertheless, the idea of withdrawing US troops from the Sinai has generated opposition from Congress. A bipartisan group of 12 lawmakers representing the leadership of key committees in both the House and the Senate, including staunch friends of Israel like Senator Lindsay Graham



A general view shows Israel's border fence with Egypt's Sinai peninsula (R), as seen from Israel's Negev Desert on February 10, 2016. Photo: REUTERS/Amir Cohen/File Photo.

(R-SC) and Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) — signed a joint letter calling on the administration to maintain American support for the MFO.

But like so many arguments about Middle East policy in the last three years, the debate on this issue mainly centers on the Trump administration's willingness to question long-standing assumptions about the region. While the Obama administration thought about pulling the US out of the Sinai, in the end it didn't do so. If Trump follows through on this plan, he'll be accused of undermining peace or giving a victory to ISIS. But while the MFO was essential to peace in the past, it is largely a vestigial entity that carries on in spite of the fact that the problem it was created to solve no longer exists.

It's possible that a day will come in the future when Egypt might once again threaten Israel. But if and when that day comes, the MFO won't do any more to protect the Jewish state than other peacekeepers on its borders. The only guarantee of Israel's security is the strength of the Israel Defense Forces, not the presence of foreign soldiers who are far from home and have no stake in the conflict.

Trump's willingness to question conventional wisdom has led to his much-needed moves recognizing Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, as well as the need to hold the Palestinian Authority accountable for its support of terrorism. The MFO decision is just another, albeit small, opportunity for the United States to stop living in the past and start thinking about what it needs to do now. Critics of the president need to adopt that same kind of realism, rather than attacking him for slaughtering yet another sacred cow.

Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS-Jewish News Syndicate. Follow him on Twitter @jonathans_tobin.

In The Midst of Coronavirus, Hatred of Israel Persists at Cornell

JOSH EIBELMAN//
JNS.org

No, that hashtag wasn't shared by the Hamas terror group in the Gaza Strip or by an Iranian state

mouthpiece.

White supremacist and anti-Semite David Duke didn't share it. Nor was it shared by Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, who has called Jews "termites," and who spews hate against gay people and women.

This hateful and slanderous

Continued on Page A10

Tradition.

Egalitarian Society,
Jewish-Style

JONATHAN SACKS
LONDON

The parsha of Bamidbar is generally read on the Shabbat before Shavuot, *z'man matan torateinu*, “the time of the giving of our law,” the revelation at Sinai. So the Sages, believing that nothing is coincidental, searched for some connection between the two.

To find one is not easy. There is nothing in the parsha about the giving of the Torah. Instead it is about



a census of the Israelites. Nor is its setting helpful. We are told at the beginning that the events about to be described took place in “the wilderness of Sinai,” whereas when the Torah speaks about the great revelation, it talks about “Mount Sinai.” One is a general region, the other a specific mountain within that region. Nor are the Israelites at this stage walking towards Mount Sinai. To the contrary, they are preparing to leave. They are about to begin the second part of their journey, from Sinai to the Promised Land.

The Sages did, nonetheless, make a connection, and it is a surprising one:

“And God spoke to Moses in the Sinai Wilderness” (Numbers 1:1). Why the Sinai Wilderness? From here the Sages taught that the Torah was given through three things: fire, water, and wilderness. How do we know it was given through fire? From Exodus 19:18: “And Mount Sinai was all in smoke as God had come down upon it in fire.” How do we know it was given through water? As it says in Judges 5:4, “The heavens dripped and the clouds dripped water [at Sinai].” How do we know it was given through wilderness? [As it says above,] “And God spoke to Moses in the Sinai Wilderness.” And why was the Torah given through these three things? Just as [fire, water, and wilderness] are free to all the inhabitants of the world, so too are the words of Torah free to them, as it says in Isaiah 55:1, “Oh, all who are thirsty, come for water... even if you have no money.”

The Midrash takes three words associated with Sinai – fire (that was blazing on the mountain just before

the revelation), water (based on a phrase in the Song of Deborah) and wilderness (as at the beginning of our parsha, and also in Exodus 19:1, 2), and it connects them by saying that “they are free to all the inhabitants of the world.”

This is not the association most of us would make. Fire is associated with heat, warmth, energy. Water is associated with quenching thirst and making things grow. Wilderness is the space between: neither starting point nor destination, the place where you need signposts and a sense of direction. All three would therefore make good metaphors for the Torah. It warms.

It energises. It satisfies spiritual thirst. It gives direction. Yet that is not the approach taken by the Sages. What mattered to them is that all three are free.

Staying for a moment with the comparison of Torah and the wilderness, there were surely other significant analogies that might have been made. The wilderness is a place of silence where you can hear the voice of God. The wilderness is a place away from the distractions of towns and cities, fields and farms, where you can focus on the presence of God. The wilderness is a place where you realise how vulnerable you are: you feel like sheep in need of a shepherd. The wilderness is a place where it is easy to get lost, and you need some equivalent of a Google-maps-of-the-soul. The wilderness is a place where you feel your isolation and you reach out to a force beyond you. Even the Hebrew name for wilderness, *midbar*, comes from the same root as “word” (*davar*) and “to speak” (*d-b-r*). Yet these were not the connections the Sages of the Midrash made. Why not?

The Sages understood that something profound was born at Mount Sinai, and this has distinguished Jewish life ever since. It was the democratisation of knowledge. Literacy and knowledge of the law was no longer to be confined to a priestly elite. For the first time in history everyone was to have access to knowledge, education and literacy. “The law that Moses gave us is the possession of the assembly of Jacob” (Deut. 33:4) – the whole assembly, not a privileged group within it.

The symbol of this was the revelation at Mount Sinai, the only

time in history when God revealed Himself not only to a Prophet but to an entire people, who three times signalled their consent to the commands and the covenant. In the penultimate command that Moses gave to the people, known as *Hakhel*, he gave the following instruction:

“At the end of every seven years, in the Sabbatical year, during the Festival of Tabernacles, when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the place He will choose, you shall read this law before them in their hearing. Assemble the people—men, women and children, and the foreigners residing in your towns—so they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the Lord your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.” (Deut. 31:10-13)

Again, the whole people, not an elite or subset within it. This is echoed in the famous verse from Isaiah 54:13, “And all your children shall be learned of the Lord and great shall be the peace of your children.” This was and remains the unique feature of the Torah as the written constitution of the Jewish people as a nation under the sovereignty of God. Everyone is expected not merely to keep the law but to know it. Jews became a nation of constitutional lawyers.

There were two further key moments in the history of this development. The first was when Ezra and Nehemiah gathered the people, after the Babylonian exile, to the Water Gate in Jerusalem, on Rosh Hashanah, and read the Torah to them, placing Levites throughout the crowd to explain to people what was being said and what it meant, a defining moment in Jewish history that took the form not of a battle but of a massive adult education programme (Neh. 8). Ezra and Nehemiah realised that the most significant battles in ensuring the Jewish future were cultural, not military. This was one of the most transformative insights in history.

The second was the extraordinary creation, in the first century, of the world’s first system of universal compulsory education. Here is how the Talmud describes the process, culminating in the work of Joshua ben Gamla, a High Priest in the last days of the Second Temple:

Truly the name of that man is to be blessed, namely Joshua ben Gamla, for but for him the Torah would have been forgotten from Israel. For at first if a child had a father, his father taught him, and if he had no father he did not learn at all . . . They therefore ordained that teachers should be appointed in each prefecture, and that boys should enter school at the age of sixteen or seventeen. [They did so] but if the teacher punished them they used to rebel and leave the school. Eventually, Joshua b. Gamla came and ordained that teachers of young children should be appointed in each district and each town, and that children should enter school at the age of six or seven.

Universal compulsory educa-

tion did not exist in England – at that time the world’s leading imperial power – until 1870, a difference of 18 centuries. At roughly the same time as Joshua ben Gamla, in the first century C.E., Josephus could write:

Should any one of our nation be asked about our laws, he will repeat them as readily as his own name. The result of our thorough education in our laws from the very dawn of intelligence is that they are, as it were, engraved on our souls.

We now understand the connection the Sages made between the wilderness and the giving of the Torah: it was open to everyone, and it was free. Neither lack of money nor of aristocratic birth could stop you from learning Torah and acquiring distinction in a community in which scholarship was considered the highest achievement.

With three crowns was Israel crowned: the crown of Torah, the crown of Priesthood and the crown of Kingship. The crown of Priesthood was conferred on Aaron . . . The crown of kingship was conferred on David . . . But the crown of Torah is for all Israel . . . Whoever desires it, let them come and take it.

I believe that this is one of Judaism’s most profound ideas: whatever you seek to create in the world, start with education. If you want to create a just and compassionate society, start with education. If you want to create a society of equal dignity, ensure that education is free and equal to all. That is the message the Sages took from the fact that we read Bamidbar before Shavuot, the festival that recalls that when God gave our ancestors the Torah, He gave it to all of them equally.

Shabbat Shalom

*Continued from Page A9
Cornell*

hashtag, created originally by anti-Israel activist Younes Arar, was reposted by the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter at Cornell University, where I am an undergraduate student. Cornell SJP shared the post on their Facebook page on March 21, days after the university suspended classes because of the coronavirus pandemic and sent students home to finish the semester virtually. Cornell SJP’s post is yet another unfortunate example of the propagation of classic anti-Semitism on college campuses, ostensibly in the name of “justice” and “peace” for the Palestinian people.

Despite SJP’s use of the coronavirus pandemic as a pretext to demonize the Jewish state, Israel has been cooperating with and assisting Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to save lives. Israel has transferred thousands of testing kits and swabs to Palestinians; provided safety and operational training to Palestinian medical and laboratory workers; and continues to allow Palestinians from both the West Bank and Gaza with chronic conditions into Israel for life-saving treatment.

The hashtag Cornell SJP shared thus amounts, in effect, to a contemporary version of anti-Semitic smears that have existed since antiquity. In the Middle Ages, Jews were falsely blamed for causing

and spreading the Black Plague in Europe. Many Jews were murdered in ensuing pogroms; entire Jewish communities were destroyed. Most recently, Palestinian state media and officials from the Palestinian Authority have compared Israel to the coronavirus, with many Palestinian activists calling Israel “COVID48”—a reference to the 1948 advent of the Jewish state.

Arar’s page is rife with hateful content. On Jan. 21, days before the International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration in Jerusalem, Arar attacked the planned ceremony on Facebook, asking whether it was “another way to deny Palestinian rights” and “approve Zionist Jewish occupation war crimes.” He added the hashtag “41 fascist hypocrites” to the post. Two days later, Arar posted it on Twitter, baselessly accusing Holocaust survivors of taking part in “mass massacres against Palestinians during late 1930s until 1951.”

It’s telling that Cornell SJP did not have any qualms about sharing a post from a page whose author has shamelessly propagated Holocaust inversion. By drawing from anti-Semitic social-media pages to share information with Cornell students, Cornell SJP has positioned itself as a vector for anti-Semitic hate on campus.

The toxicity goes even deeper. Five days before their “Zionist Occupation is the Virus” post, Cornell SJP referred to Israel on Facebook as “the Zionist entity.” This term has been used by the likes of Iran—the world’s leading state-sponsor of terrorism which threatens to annihilate Israel—demonize and delegitimize the nation-state of the Jewish people.

Indeed, Cornell SJP, instead of promoting justice in Palestine, has made it its mission to deny the Jewish people their right to self-determination. Max Greenberg, the leader of Cornell SJP, has even written in The Cornell Daily Sun to clarify that his organization is fighting for Israel’s demise as a Jewish state.

To this end, Cornell SJP has compared Zionism—the idea that Jews have a right to self-determination in their historic homeland—to “European fascism,” the ideology that ultimately led to the slaughter of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust. Not only is this comparison rabidly anti-Semitic, but it also disgraces the memory of the millions of Jews who perished as a result of the anti-Semitism Nazi Germany channeled into its attempted annihilation of the Jewish people.

Cornell SJP also has a record of promoting and celebrating the internationally designated terror organization Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine, whose members have and continue to murder Jews in Israel.

But its hatred of Israel won’t win. Israel will continue to be a flawed, yet free and liberal, democracy where Muslims, Christians, Jews and people of any religion can freely worship. Israel will continue to ensure equal rights for all citizens. It will continue to innovate, build and discover. And with the commitment to improve and strive to be better at the core of its existence, Israel will continue to be a light unto the nations.

Josh Eibelman is a senior at Cornell University and a CAMERA fellow.

Social.



A keyboard. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

Clicktale Parent Company Contentsquare Raises \$190 Million, Expands Israel R&D Center

BY HAGER RAVET/CTech

Paris-based digital insights company Contentsquare has raised \$190 million in a series D funding round, bringing its total funding raised to date to \$310 million, the company announced Tuesday. Contentsquare develops a system that analyzes customer behavior using billions of anonymized web, mobile, and app interactions. The system then provides actionable insights meant to maximize profit.

According to the company, its system is in full compliance with international data privacy regulations, including the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 (CCPA).

Contentsquare intends to use the funding for research and development and for expanding its business across the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

The round was led by New York-headquartered management corporation BlackRock's Investment arm BlackRock Private Equity Partners. Existing investors include French sovereign wealth fund BPI France (Bpifrance), Canaan Partners, Eurazeo Growth, GPE Hermes, Highland Europe, H14, and KKR & Co. (Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.), most of whom also participated in the current round.

Contentsquare also announced its plans to expand its research and development center in Tel Aviv suburb Ramat Gan, which was established last year, following the French company's acquisition of customer behavior analytics company Clicktale. Since the acquisition, Contentsquare doubled its staff to over 600 people, 150 of whom are based in Israel.

According to Shlomi Hagai, who serves as Clicktale's CEO and Contentsquare's chief financial officer, negotiations for the round started in January and came to fruition during the coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis. "Contentsquare chose to maintain its entire staff while taking steps to ensure efficiency and improving its financial model," Hagai told Calcalist in an interview.

This strategy was made possible, Hagai said, as Contentsquare's product is essential especially at these trying times, as it helps companies increase sales revenue. Hagai also said the company is looking to fill several dozen positions in Israel.

Asked if BlackRock was only buying to sell, as per its previous deal history, Hagai said that though the company does perform asset management, in ContentSquare's case, it got in as a strategic investor to help grow the company.

Hagai said ContentSquare is currently on the market for mergers and acquisitions and is eyeing several Israeli companies, yet no negotiations are currently underway.

Gal Gadot Quotes Late Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir in Message to 2020 Graduates

BY SHIRYN GHERMEZIAN

In her speech to the graduates, the "Wonder Woman" star quoted Meir who famously said, "Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement."

"These words had a profound influence on many young people, like myself, growing up in Israel," Gadot added. "The idea seems so simple, but to put it into action isn't always as simple. Because it's not always as



Gal Gadot. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.

easy as deciding to be happy or deciding to do what's right. Fanning those flames takes more than desire. It takes even more work, drive, confidence, resources, and the ability to go on even when there are those who will tell you it's not possible; you shouldn't; you couldn't."

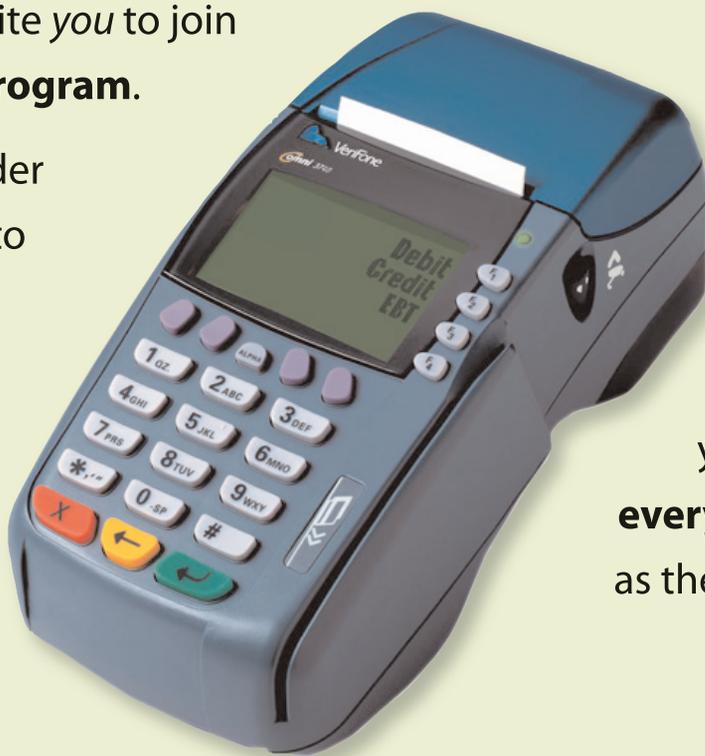
Gadot concluded her 2-minute message by referencing the superhero she plays on screen. She said, "To me, Wonder Woman is a fighter, but it's what she fights for that matters. So fight for your place in this world, because you've earned it. You've worked so hard to get to this moment and no matter how unclear our future may seem, your future is bright. And it starts today. Congratulations."

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